

Elizabeth Carr has many plans for this new phase of her life including completing a journal and a book of poetry, visiting family and friends, and traveling.

Madam Speaker, Elizabeth Shell Carr has given a lot to America's veterans, her church, and her community. I would like to recognize all of her accomplishments and achievements and congratulate her on her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman.

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TRIBUTE TO DEXTER AND BIRDIE  
YAGER

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2007*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great couple who are a wonderful example of what is right with America. Dexter and Birdie Yager are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Sadly, in America, it has become a rare thing for two people to stay together this long.

They are the proud parents of seven kids. The Yager family is extremely close—even working in a very successful business together. They exemplify achieving the American dream through hard work, and they demonstrate the love of a strong family who are there to help each other and others daily. I wish them many more happy years!

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RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING  
EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS  
ABOUT AND HELP END THE  
WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRI-  
SIS AND GENOCIDE IN DARFUR,  
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 29, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 573 and to commend grassroots and advocacy groups across the country for their powerful voices and invaluable efforts to raise awareness about the deepening humanitarian crisis in Darfur. This resolution will honor these groups for their hard work and urge the government to use its influence to halt the killing of innocent people in Darfur. Local communities continue to insist that the international community honor its responsibility to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur. We must heed their message, because it is one we cannot afford to ignore.

As a member of the House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, the Congressional, the Human Rights Caucus, and the Congressional Sudan Caucus, I share their immediate concern that our country must do everything it can to end the genocide in Darfur. More than 2.5 million Darfurians have been displaced from their homes and as many as 400,000 Darfurians have needlessly died

over the last four years as a result of violence, hunger, and disease.

The tragic events unfolding in Darfur have been felt intensely by local communities across the world. The strongest efforts to end the genocide will grow from the concerns of American citizens who can no longer sit quietly by while the atrocities in Sudan continue unabated. I am proud to represent the people of California's Sixth Congressional District, who are among the people most involved in stopping the genocide in Darfur since the crisis started.

Dear Sudan, now an international movement, began in my hometown of Petaluma in 2004. Their goal was to raise enough money from citizens of Petaluma to feed the refugees from Darfur for one day. Dear Sudan, Love Petaluma was so successful that other communities began organizing first locally, then spread across the Nation, and recently founded chapters in other countries across the world.

Dear Sudan, Love Marin has hosted educational forums and worked to develop a broad coalition of religious and community groups, encompassing the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Another group, Marin Interfaith, has been instrumental in spreading the message about the ongoing genocide to the religious community at large.

Additionally, students throughout the Sixth District have organized under Save Darfur, other national organizations, or on their own to help raise awareness for the crisis in Darfur by planning educational forums, rallying, and washing cars to raise funds for refugees. Just this past weekend, a student group in Santa Rosa held a car wash at a local market, and this December, a group of students from Terra Linda High School are planning a half-day conference on the genocide.

Groups like these demonstrate the best elements of our Nation, where people can come together to work for change in the world. It is with their energy and passion in mind that we must renew our commitment to end the genocide in Darfur.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT  
LOAN AUCTION MARKET (SLAM)  
ACT OF 2007

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2007*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Student Loan Auction Market, SLAM, Act to continue the process of comprehensive, structural reform of the guaranteed student loan program. I believe this legislation would mark a critical step towards full market-based reform of the program and build on the reforms incorporated in the bipartisan College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which was recently signed into law by President Bush.

Specifically, the SLAM Act would further efforts to study and pilot several market-based reforms, including auction and asset-backed securities models. The politically-set subsidy rate to lenders is a fundamental flaw in the ar-

chaic structure of the guaranteed loan program. I believe we can all agree that some type of comprehensive, market-based reform will be necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the guaranteed loan program and ensure taxpayers' interests are better served.

My proposal would require the Secretaries of Education and the Treasury, in conjunction with the Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, to conduct a joint planning study to determine which market-mechanism model for determining lender returns on guaranteed loans would best serve borrowers and taxpayers. This study would allow the experts to weigh the pros and cons of each proposal and determine which option would be most favorable for trial in the pilot program.

The pilot model will be selected by the Secretaries based on key criteria, such as ensuring sufficient loan availability to all participating institutions, minimizing administrative complexity to borrowers and lenders, and reducing the Federal cost if used on a program-wide basis. Within 6 months of enactment of this legislation, the study group would report its findings to Congress and begin implementation of a voluntary pilot program.

The voluntary, 2-year pilot program will begin in July 2008 and incorporate up to 10 percent of the guaranteed loan portfolio, increasing up to 20 percent in 2009. To encourage meaningful college participation in the pilot, any savings from the increased efficiency in the market model will be returned to the institution in the form of supplemental, need-based grant aid. Finally, GAO would conduct an independent evaluation of the pilot program and report its findings to Congress and the Secretaries within 120 days after termination of the pilot.

I believe that both the study and the pilot will provide critical and necessary information to Congress on how market-based reforms will impact the guaranteed loan program, before such reforms are implemented on a program-wide basis. This is a measured and responsible proposal that is based on voluntary participation by both colleges and lenders. It is something that both supporters and skeptics of the guaranteed loan program should embrace.

Although a much narrower and prescriptive auction pilot was included in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, it has raised significant concerns among reform advocates, the Administration, and lenders about its feasibility and efficacy. My bill would not alter the Senate pilot that was agreed to in conference, but would require a second pilot by which to compare outcomes between the two models. It is a responsible and pragmatic addition to the current auction pilot.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation to further our understanding of market-based reform options. Congress should always encourage innovation in the administration of our student loan programs and continually strive to better serve students and taxpayers.